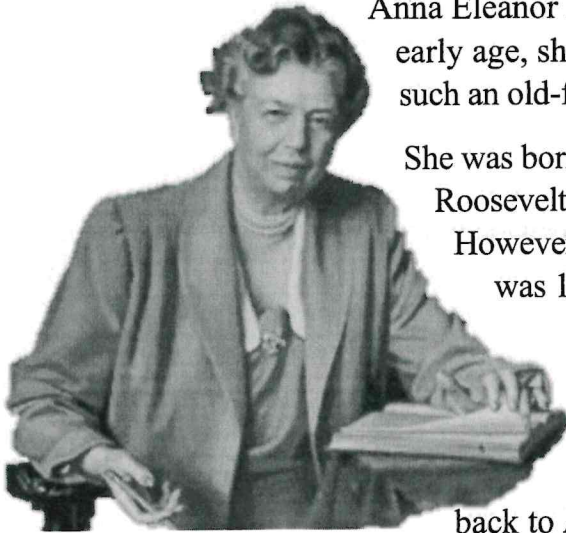


ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: FIRST LADY OF THE WORLD



Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City in 1884. From an early age, she preferred to be called by her middle name, but acted in such an old-fashioned manner that her mother nicknamed her “Granny.”

She was born into a very wealthy, powerful family. President Teddy Roosevelt and several famous tennis champions were her uncles. However, her childhood was filled with tragedy. By the time she was 10, Eleanor lost both her parents and a baby brother.

Eleanor was a shy child who thought of herself as an “ugly duckling”. However, as a teenager, she was sent to school in England where a famous feminist teacher helped her gain confidence and by the time she went back to America, Eleanor was beloved by everyone at the school.

At 18, she met her distant cousin Franklin D. Roosevelt on a train and the two began a romance. A year later, they were engaged and when they married in 1905, President Teddy Roosevelt walked down the aisle.

After Franklin suffered partial paralysis from polio in 1921, Eleanor persuaded him to stay in politics and began to make appearances and working on his behalf. She helped raise money and support for a minimum wage and ending child labor. When Franklin was elected governor of New York, Eleanor became a teacher in New York City.

Franklin was elected president in 1933. Eleanor was determined not to end the traditional role of First Lady and was quite outspoken. On a few occasions, she even publicly disagreed with her husband's policies. She was the first presidential spouse to hold press conferences, write a syndicated newspaper column, and speak at a national convention. She advocated for expanded roles for women in the workplace, the civil rights of African Americans and Asian Americans, and the rights of World War II refugees.

Eleanor also caused a stir by inviting many African American guests to the White House. When the black singer Marian Anderson was denied the use of Constitution Hall in 1939 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Eleanor resigned from the group in protest and arranged another concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Eleanor was active in politics after leaving the White House. She pressed the US to join the United Nations and served as the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights. Later she chaired the John F. Kennedy administration's Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. By the time of her death in 1962, she was regarded as “one of the most esteemed women in the world.” President Harry S. Truman called her the “First Lady of the World” in tribute to her human rights achievements.

Name _____

FIRST LADY OF THE WORLD: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Directions: After reading about First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, answer the following questions.

- _____ 1. What question does paragraph 2 answer?
- a. Where was Eleanor born?
 - b. Where did Eleanor go to school?
 - c. How did Eleanor gain the nickname “Granny”?
 - d. Why was Eleanor’s childhood tragic?
- _____ 2. If the author added information about Eleanor Roosevelt’s first job, in which paragraph would it fit best?
- a. 1
 - b. 4
 - c. 6
 - d. 8
- _____ 3. Which was NOT a job held by Eleanor Roosevelt?
- a. Teacher
 - b. Speaker
 - c. Writer
 - d. Governor

Read this sentence.

Eleanor also caused a stir by inviting many African American guests to the White House.

- _____ 4. In this sentence, “caused a stir” means –
- a. Impressed people
 - b. Caused controversy
 - c. Was popular
 - d. Moved around
- _____ 5. Which of Eleanor Roosevelt’s achievements best supports Truman’s calling her “First Lady of the World”?
- a. Chairing the UN Commission on Human Rights
 - b. Speaking at national conventions
 - c. Raising money to end child labor.
 - d. Writing a syndicated newspaper column as First Lady.